



Spill Planning, Preparedness, and Response in the Northwest

Beth Sheldrake

EPA NW Area Spill Planner

Response Authorities



- CERCLA (Superfund)
 - Response to releases or threats of release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants
- Clean Water Act as amended by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA)
 - Response to discharges or threats of discharges of oil to waters of the United States
- Stafford Act/HSPD-5
 - Provides federal coordination and funding for response to declared and non-declared National Disasters (natural and man-made)
- Various State statutes

Implementation of Authorities

- National Contingency Plan (NCP; CERCLA/OPA)
 - Governs how EPA and USCG will respond to releases of hazardous materials and discharges of oil
 - Designates the federal On Scene Coordinator (OSC) as the lead responder
 - Requires FOSC to direct responses to oil discharges posing “substantial” threat
 - Requires RRT to develop a “Regional Contingency Plan” and FOSCs to develop “Area Contingency Plan(s)”
- National Response Plan (NRP; HSPD-5)
 - Should be final any day now....
 - Designates DHS as Principle Federal Official
 - Does not change any existing NCP authorities
 - Will eventually replace Federal Response Plan



Pre-Exxon Valdez

- Planning at the federal level done in a vacuum
- Little coordination among federal, state, and local response agencies
- Few, if any, joint exercises
- Few planning/preparedness requirements for industry



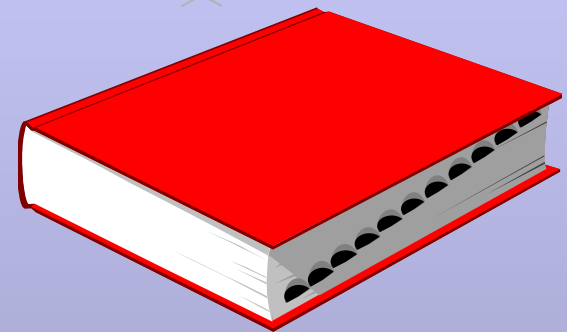
Post Exxon Valdez - Oil Pollution Act of 1990

- Strengthened requirements for coordinated planning and preparedness
 - Area Committees and Area Contingency Plans
 - Area exercises
- Imposed strict planning and preparedness requirements on facilities and vessels storing/transporting large quantities of oil
 - Facility and Vessel Response Plans
 - Minimum requirements for response equipment
 - Regular drills and exercises



The National Contingency Plan (NCP)

- Found in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 300
- The NCP is the blueprint which:
 - outlines the structure of the National Response System (NRS)
 - defines the responsibilities for each component of the NRS
 - provides the mechanism for successful responses to oil and hazardous substance releases



National Response System Elements

- Organizational elements:
 - National Response Team (NRT)
 - Regional Response Teams (RRTs)
 - On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)
 - Federal, State, Tribal, Local
 - Area Committees
 - State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs)
 - Tribal Emergency Response commissions (TERCs)
 - Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)
 - Regulated Industry



Concept of Operations

- Rapid notification of Federal, State, and local governments to permit assessment and response, if necessary
 - National Response Center
- Relies on the principle of escalation
- Three primary focuses: planning, preparedness, and response



Concept of Operations (Continued)

- Provides for access to considerable resources and expertise as situations requires
- Covers all spills regardless of nature, cause or source
 - oil and hazmat
 - fixed facility and transportation
 - inland and coastal
 - natural and man-made disasters



Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) Responsibilities



- Pre-designated Federal official who directs all federal response efforts and coordinates all other efforts at scene of an incident
 - EPA for inland areas, US Coast Guard for coastal areas, DOD/DOE for facilities or munitions
- Responsible for safety of all responders
- Responsible for overall protection of human health and the environment
- Point of contact for coordination of federal response with response efforts of responsible party and local and state governments
- Responsible for planning and preparedness activities when not responding

State, Tribal, Local On Scene Coordinators

- Ensure interests of the state, tribal, or local jurisdiction are protected
- Coordinates assets from state, tribal, or local sources
- May be pre-designated or designated at the time of a spill

FOSC Response Assets

- Enforcement authorities to ensure that the responsible party (RP) cleans up the spill or release
- Immediate access to technical assistance and cleanup contractors if the RP cannot adequately handle the problem
- Immediate and direct access to federal dollars
 - SUPERFUND and OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND
- Specialized equipment
- Technical expertise from special federal teams
- National and Regional Response Teams (NRT & RRT)

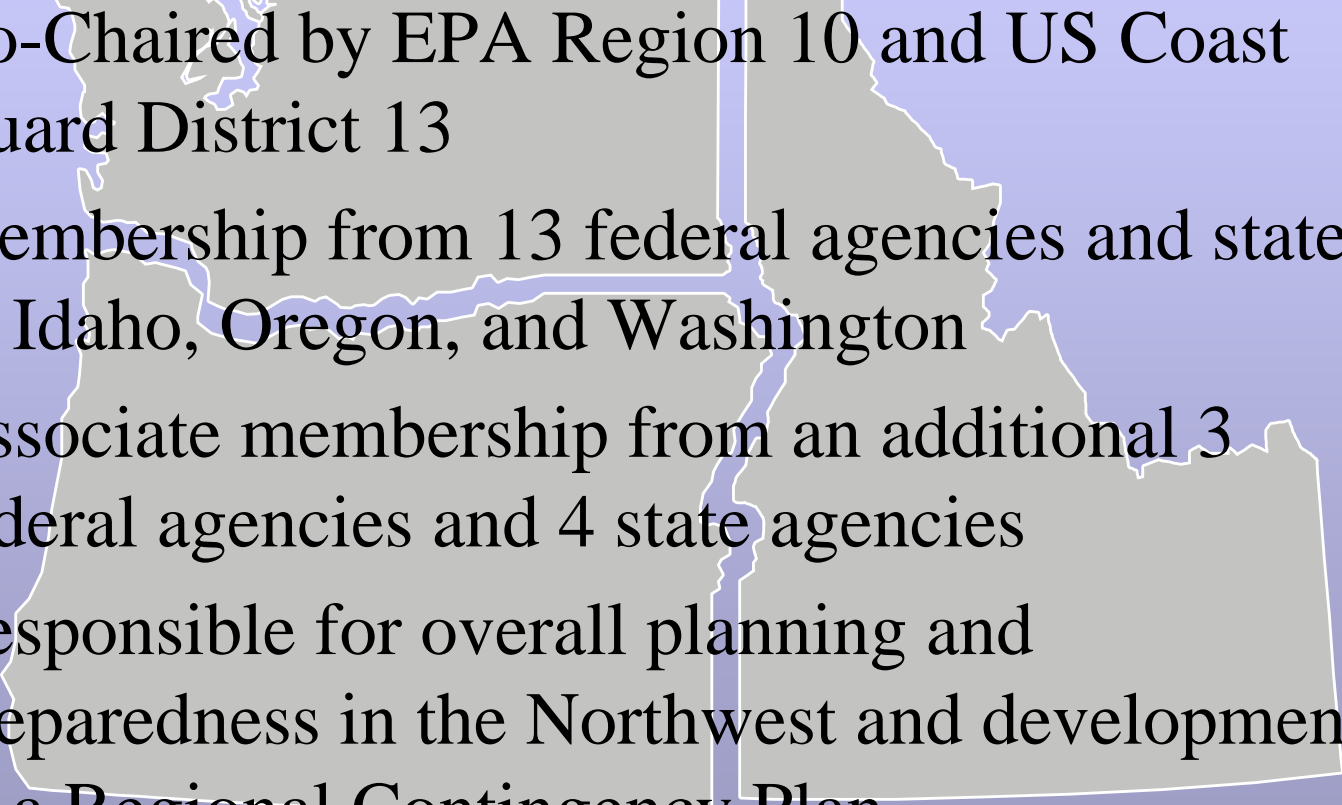


National Response Team

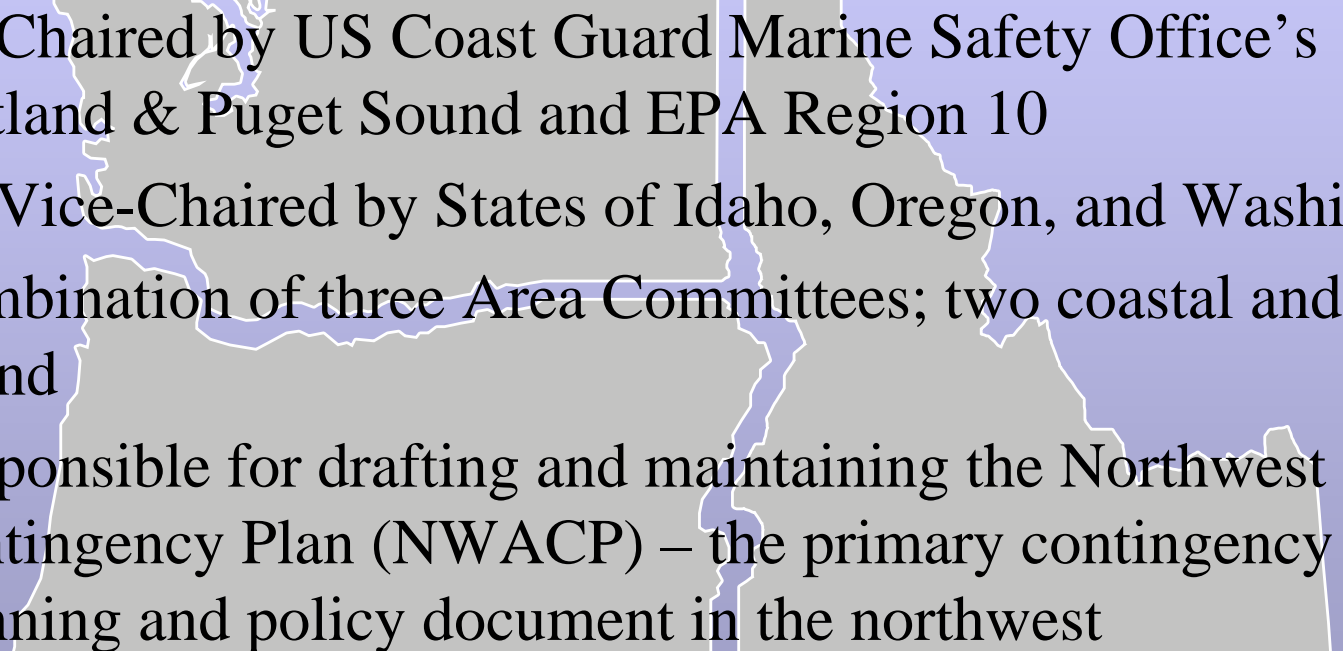
- Overall responsibility for national preparedness and coordination of response resources
- Chaired by EPA, Vice-Chaired by USCG
- Membership by 16 key federal supporting agencies
- Activated at the time of an incident to support the RRT, FOSC, and Unified Command



Regional Response Team (RRT 10)

- 
- Co-Chaired by EPA Region 10 and US Coast Guard District 13
 - Membership from 13 federal agencies and states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington
 - Associate membership from an additional 3 federal agencies and 4 state agencies
 - Responsible for overall planning and preparedness in the Northwest and development of a Regional Contingency Plan
 - Incident-specific role to support the FOSC and Unified Command

NW Area Committee

- 
- A map of the Northwest Area Committee region, showing the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The map is divided into three sections: two coastal areas (Washington and Oregon) and one inland area (Idaho). The text of the list is overlaid on the map.
- Co-Chaired by US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office's Portland & Puget Sound and EPA Region 10
 - Co-Vice-Chaired by States of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington
 - Combination of three Area Committees; two coastal and one inland
 - Responsible for drafting and maintaining the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP) – the primary contingency planning and policy document in the northwest

Current Standing RRT10 Membership

- **Co Chairs**
 - EPA & USCG D13 Co-Chair
- **Members**
 - Dept of Ag (Forest Service)
 - Dept of Commerce (NOAA)
 - Dept of Defense (Corps of Engineers)
 - Dept of Energy
 - Dept of Health and Human Services
 - Dept of Interior
 - Dept of Justice
 - Dept of Labor (OSHA)
 - Dept of Transportation
 - FEMA
 - Food and Drug Administration (DHHS)
 - GSA
- **State Representatives**
 - ID Bureau of Homeland Security
 - OR Dept of Environmental Quality
 - WA Dept of Ecology
- **Federal Associate Members**
 - Dept of Defense (Navy)
 - USCG Marine Safety Offices
Puget Sound and Portland
 - USCG Pacific Strike Team
 - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
- **State Associate Members**
 - OR Health Services
 - OR Emergency Management
 - WA Dept of Health
 - WA Emergency Management

NW Area Committee Membership

- **Co-Chairs**

- USCG Marine Safety Office
Puget Sound
- USCG Marine Safety Office
Portland
- EPA

- **Co-Vice Chairs**

- WA Dept of Ecology
- OR DEQ
- Idaho State Emergency
Response Commission

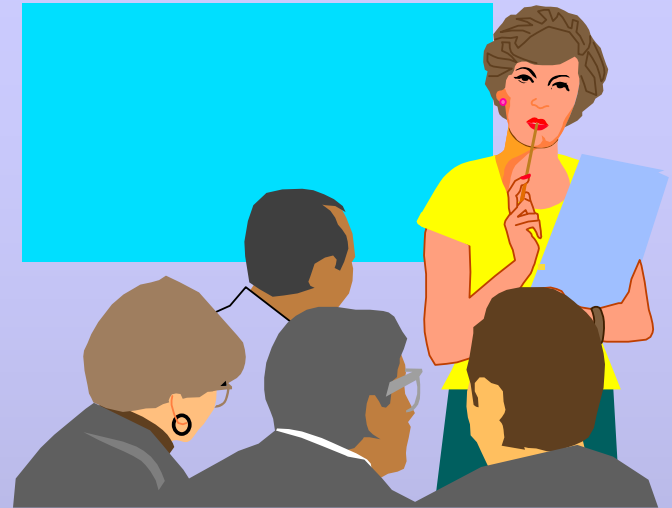
- **Members**

- Tribes
- Supporting Federal
agencies
- Supporting State agencies
- Supporting Local agencies
- Other interested/qualified
parties

Responsibilities

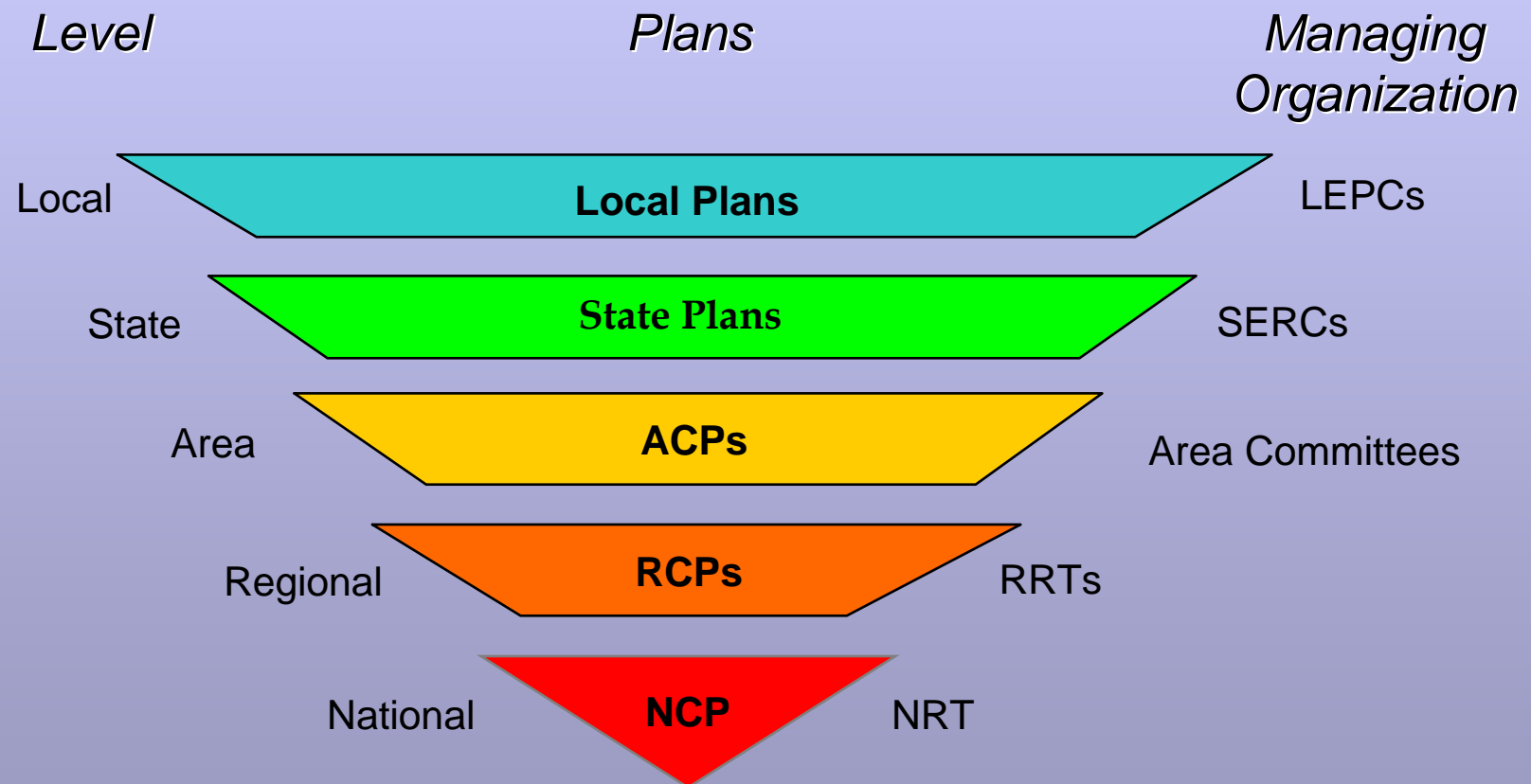
- RRT
 - NCP § 300.105(c)(2)
 - Regional planning and preparedness
 - Development of a Regional Contingency Plan
 - Provide advice and support to the OSC (Unified Command)
- Area Committee
 - NCP § 300.205(c)
 - Prepare an Area Contingency Plan
 - Work with federal, state, and local officials to enhance pre-planning for releases and discharges
 - Work with federal, state, and local officials to expedite decisions on use of alternative countermeasures (in-situ burn, dispersants, etc.)

Expectations of RRT Member Agencies

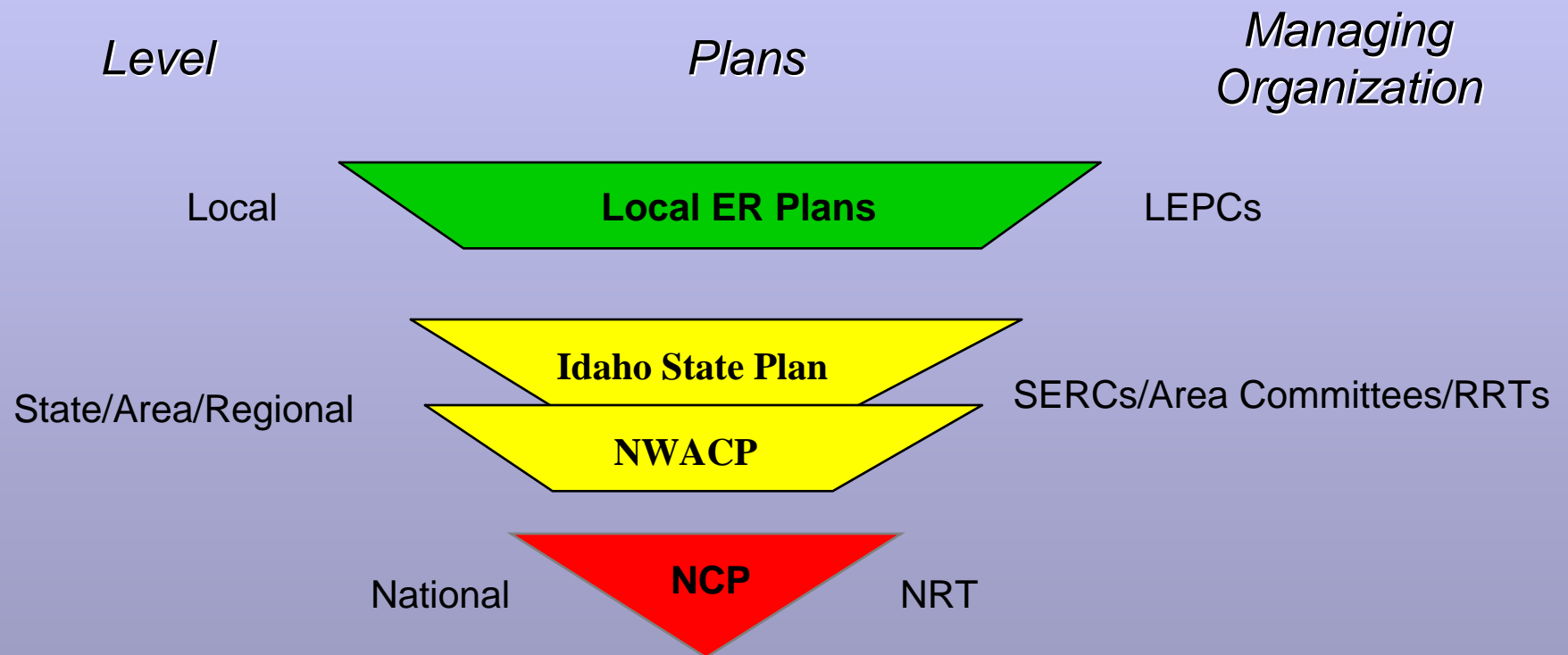


- Participate in tri-annual meetings
- Participate in workgroups and other activities, as appropriate
- Provide updated 24-hour contact information for activations
- Be familiar with activation procedures (NWACP Section 9121)
- Be familiar with and a conduit to agencies, services, bureaus, departments, divisions, etc. within parent organization

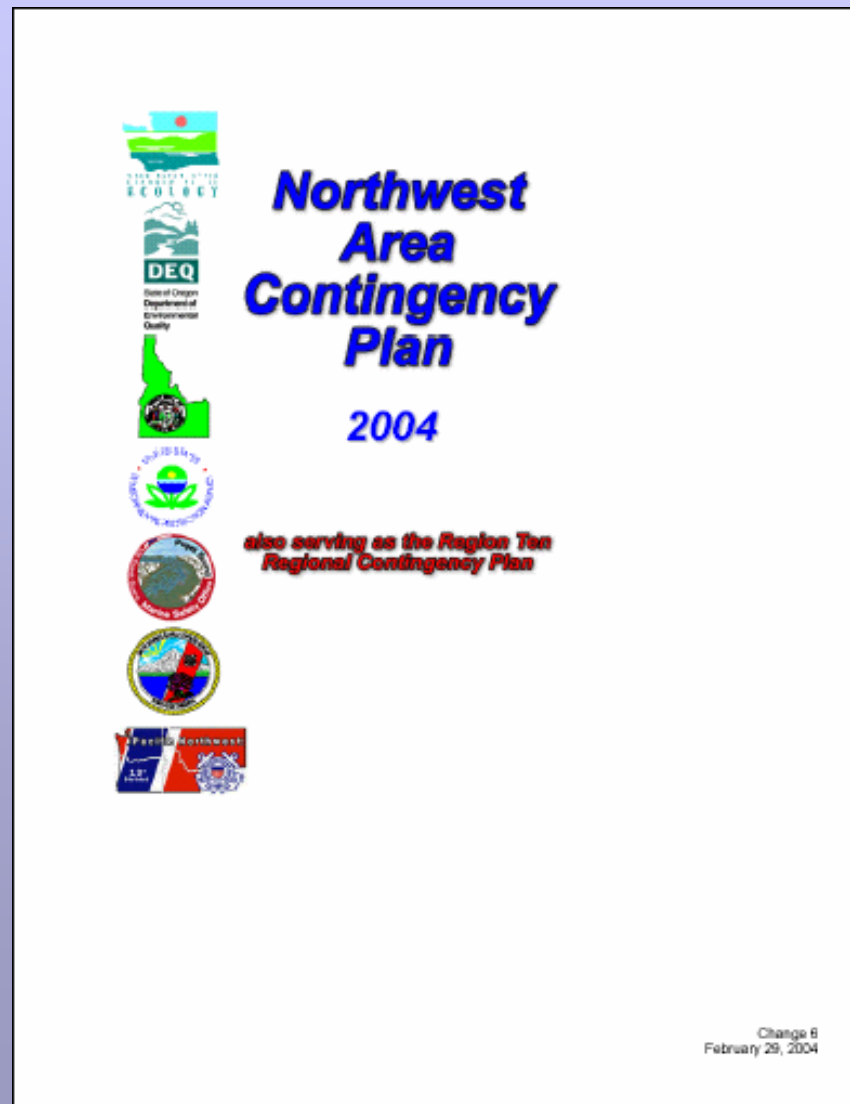
Planning Components Under the NRS



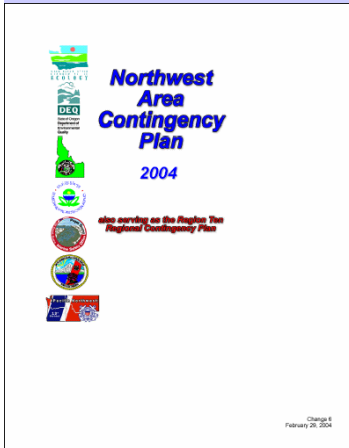
Planning Components Under the NRS in the Northwest



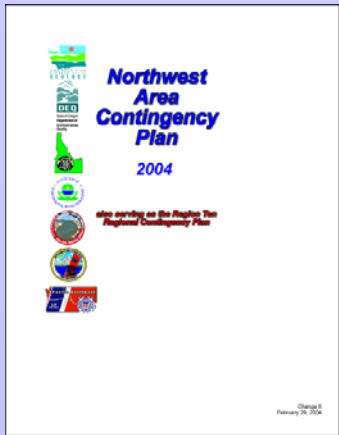
Regional Response Team/ NW Area Committee



What is the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP)?



- Serves both as the **Regional** Contingency Plan and **Area** Contingency Plan for the northwest
- Primary policy and guidance manual for responding to spills of oil and hazardous substances to water and land
- Covers Federal and State jurisdictions in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington
- Signatory Agencies
 - USCG, EPA, States of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho
- Identifies response roles and responsibilities



What is the NWACP? (cont.)

- Describes how response resources will be activated and managed
- Structured around the five major functions of ICS
 - Command
 - Operations
 - Planning
 - Logistics
 - Finance/Admin
- Includes 31 Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) as stand-alone annexes

Where to get additional information?

- Regional Response Team 10 and the Northwest Area Committee RRT/NWAC host a web site containing the NWACP, Geographic Response Plans, Workgroup Action Plans and Charter, RRT/NWAC Strategic Plan, meeting minutes, public information fact sheets, and other information

– www.rrt10nwac.com



Questions??

